

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claims 1-9, 21, 23, and 25-36 were pending. Claims 1-9, 21, 23, 29, 30, 35, and 36 were rejected. Claims 25-28 and 31-34 were objected to, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent forms. In this response, claims 2, 7, 25, and 31 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 1, 3, 5-6, 8, 26, and 32 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

Specifically, independent claims 1 and 6 have been amended to include an allowable subject matter of the objected claims 25 and 31 respectively. Thus, independent claims 1 and 6 as amended are allowable. Applicant has also amended some other claims to depend from one of the independent claims 1 and 6. Therefore, the pending claims are all allowable.

While Applicant does not concede that the Examiner's position is correct on the merits, Applicant has sought to obtain the claims that were objected to.


In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits the present application is now in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite or assist in the allowance of the present application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (408) 720-8300.

Please charge Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any shortage of fees in connection with this response.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN

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Kevin G. Shao
Attorney for Applicant
Reg. No. 45,095

12400 Wilshire Boulevard
Seventh Floor
Los Angeles, California 90025-1026
(408) 720-8300